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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vannuffel, et al.)
Int'l)
Appl. No. : PCT/BE98/00141)
Int'l Filing)
Date : September 28, 1998)
For : GENETIC SEQUENCES,)
DIAGNOSTIC AND/OR)
QUANTIFICATION)
METHODS AND DEVICES)
FOR THE IDENTIFICATION)
OF STAPHYLOCOCCI)
STRAINS)
Examiner : Unknown)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned U.S. National Phase application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, at line 11, after the Title of the Invention and before the Field of the Invention, please insert --This application is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application PCT/BE98/00141, filed September 28, 1998, which claims priority of European Application 97870146.4, filed September 26, 1997.--.

On page 21, line 1, please delete the word "CLAIMS" and substitute in its place --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.